IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 2 to 12 and 14 to 21 as follows.

1.   A system for determining and/or positioning a digital sensor of dental X-ray apparatus, comprising

-       an input and output device for interactive control of the system,

-       a first storage area, in which the digital image of the area to be examined, is saved,

-       a second storage area, in which at least one template image of the sensor is stored,

-       a processing unit, which places the template image of at least one sensor simulatively on the area to be examined of the digital image such that when a real X-ray image is created the area to be examined is depicted completely,

-       wherein the processing unit has means for indicating the sensor and the position of the sensor in the digital image.

2.   (Currently Amended)   A system as defined in claim 1, further comprising [characterized by] a user interface enabling interactive selection of the template image and/or the area to be examined.

3.   (Currently Amended)   A system as defined in [any one of claims 1 to 2, characterized] claim 1, comprising in that [the] a user preferably interactively specifies the area to be examined in the digital image, and the processing unit [specifies] is capable of specifying, preferably by iterative simulation, that template image which covers the area to be examined as completely as possible.

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4.   (Currently Amended)   A system as defined in [any one or more of the previous claims, characterized in that the position] claim 1, wherein the processing unit is capable of determining the position of the template image [is determined] in one or more dimensions.

5.   (Currently Amended)   A system as defined in [any one or more of the previous claims, characterized by] claim 1, further comprising a computer interface to the X-ray apparatus, via which [the] presettings determined by simulation are transferred, [whilst] while the X-ray apparatus permits the creation of a digital image only when [these] said presettings apply.

6.   (Currently Amended)   A system as defined in [any one or more of the previous claims, characterized by] claim 1, further comprising a computer interface, via which an existing digital image of the patient to be X-rayed is transferred to the first storage area.

7.   (Currently Amended)   A system as defined in [any one or more of the previous claims, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises a dental X-ray-unit [is controlled].

8.   (Currently Amended)   A system as defined in [any one or more of the previous claims, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the system [is in the form of] comprises a PC controlled by software.

9.   (Currently Amended)   A template for specifying a digital X-ray sensor, [characterized by the] wherein a shape and size of an X-ray image is created using [the] an assigned digital X-ray sensor.

10.   (Currently Amended)   A template as defined in claim 9, [characterized by] comprising a property making it possible to pass the template over an X-ray image.

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11.　(Currently Amended)　A template as defined in claim 10, [characterized by] comprising a digitally stored size and orientation which is adapted, when called on, in accordance with [the] actual dimensions of a digital X-ray image.

12.　(Currently Amended)　A template as defined in claim 10, [characterized by] comprising a frame [and/or by a] of transparent material.

13.　A method of specifying and/or positioning a digital sensor of dental X-ray apparatus using templates corresponding in size and shape to the sensor image, comprising

-　　a first step, in which the X-ray image is selected, this preferably being an X-ray image of the patient to be examined,

-　　a second step, during which the area to be imaged is specified,

-　　a third step, during which there is selected, from a plurality of templates each of which is assigned to sensors of the digital X-ray apparatus, that template which covers the area specified in the second step most precisely.

14.　(Currently Amended)　A method as defined in claim 13, [characterized in that] wherein the third step is carried out automatically or interactively.

15.　(Currently Amended)　A method for specifying and/or positioning a digital sensor of dental X-ray apparatus, using templates corresponding in size and shape to [the sensor] an image of the sensor, comprising

-　　a first step, in which the X-ray image is selected, this preferably being

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an X-ray image of the patient to be examined,

- a second step, during which there is selected, from a plurality of templates each assigned to a sensor of the digital X-ray apparatus, that template which should be used to cover the area to be X-rayed,

- and a third step, during which the template is moved across the X-ray image for purposes of control and the imaging area appertaining to the template is thus revealed, the second and third steps being iteratively continued until a suitable combination of sensor and imaging area is displayed.

16. (Currently Amended)   A method as defined in [any one of claims 13 to 15, characterized in that] claim 13, wherein the X-ray [images] image and the templates are managed in digital form.

17. (New)   A method as defined in claim 15, wherein the X-ray image and the templates are managed in digital form.

18. (Currently Amended)   A method for creating a number of partial images using at least one sensor, comprising, a first step in which several areas to be X-rayed are selected from an image, and a second step in which there is effected automatic selection and display of the sensor suitable for creating the respective image.

19. (Currently Amended)   A method as defined in claim 17, wherein that the image is a digital panoramic radiogram, which is displayed on a digital display unit and refers individually to the patient.

20. (Currently Amended)   A method as defined in claim 17, wherein a suitable sequence for making the images is automatically proposed, account being taken of particular conditions of the respective X-raying situation,

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namely the order of the images to be created, the operation of positioning the X-ray unit and/or the selection of a sensor type.

21. (Currently Amended)   A data medium, containing a data structure that is capable of running on a computer to carry a method as defined claim 13.

22. (New)   A data medium, containing a data structure that is capable of running on a computer to carry a method as defined claim 15.

23. (New)   A data medium, containing a data structure that is capable of running on a computer to carry a method as defined claim 18.